

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 107429
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE: (1) NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (2)

PERSONNEL - MR. HUBER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 107429

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:AODE JA

SUBJECT: MODE - COMMERCE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT
POSITIONS FOR WHALING OBSERVERS

1. THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HAS REVIVED A REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH TWO RESIDENT POSITIONS FOR OBSERVERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING SURVEILLANCE OF WHALING OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH PACIFIC FROM LAND STATIONS IN JAPAN. (COMMERCE FILED SUCH A REQUEST IN 1977 BUT SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDREW IT ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD NOT APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. COMMERCE NOW STATES THAT A MISUNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE BASIS OF THE REQUEST WAS CLEARED UP IN A MEETING IN DECEMBER OF DR. MICHAEL TILLMAN OF THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

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PAGE 02 STATE 107429

(NMFS), NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, THE EMBASSY PERSONNEL OFFICER AND THE FISHERIES ATTACHE).

2. IN SUPPORTING ITS REQUEST, COMMERCE STATES THAT OBSERVER ACTIVITY HAS BEEN CONDUCTED VIA TDY SINCE 1972 AND HERETOFORE THE WHALING SEASON LASTED ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS ANNUALLY. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, AN EXTENSION OF THE SEASON

HAS CREATED A NEED FOR THE OBSERVERS TO BE IN JAPAN THE

ENTIRE YEAR. NMFS PLANS TO ASSIGN OBSERVERS FOR TWO YEAR PERIODS OF DUTY WITH A BASE IN TOKYO. THE OBSERVERS HAVE RECEIVED "GENERAL SUPPORT" FROM THE EMBASSY BUT "NO SPECIFIC NEEDS EXIST FOR SUPPORT OR PERQUISITES."

3. THE OBSERVERS OPERATE UNDER THE TERMS OF A 1977 AGREEMENT WITH THE GOJ WHICH STATES THAT "OBSERVERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION" (IWC) AND "SHALL NEITHER SEEK NOR RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM ANY OTHER AUTHORITY OTHER THAN THE COMMISSION". HOWEVER, NMFS STATES THAT OBSERVERS WOULD SPEND APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT OF THEIR TIME ON USG RESEARCH WORK OUTSIDE IWC PURVIEW.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY COMMENTS ON THIS REQUEST SOONEST. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FISHERIES ATTACHE IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH RESIDENT OBSERVERS' PROPOSED DUTIES AND PLANS. MR. KUNIO YONEZAWA, COUNSELOR, FISHERIES AGENCY, IS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THEIR IWC RESPONSIBILITIES. TWO POSITIONS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED WITHIN THE COMMERCE WORLDWIDE MODE CEILING. VANCE

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